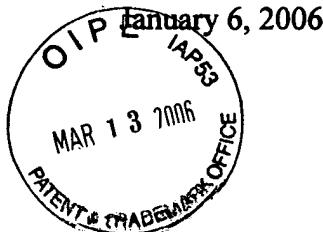


ARNOLD & PORTER LLP

Thomas E. Holsten
Thomas.Holsten@aporter.com
202.942.5085
202.942.5999 Fax
555 Twelfth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004-1206

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



COPY

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 09/696,664
Filed: October 25, 2000
Title: **Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules
Associated with Plants**
Applicants: Mark S. ABAD *et al.*
Atty. Docket: 16517.316/38-21(51721)B/US

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO):

1. Amendment; and
2. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the filing date of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier.

In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Applicants do not believe any fees are due in conjunction with this filing. However, if any fees are required in the present application, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter LLP Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing matter number 16517.316. A duplicate copy of this letter is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T.E. Holsten".

Thomas E. Holsten (Reg. No. 46,098)
David R. Marsh (Reg. No. 41,408)
Holly Logue Prutz (Reg. No. 47,755)

Attachments

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

ABAD et al.

Appln. No.: 09/696,664

Filed: October 25, 2000

Title: **Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other
Molecules Associated with Plants**



Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: Michael L. BORIN

Confirmation No.: 5102

Atty. Docket: 16517.316

Amendment

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants hereby request entry of the following amendment in the above-captioned application.

In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Applicants do not believe that any additional fees are due in conjunction with this filing. However, if any fees are required in the present application, including any fees for extensions of time, authorization to charge such fees is given in the accompanying transmittal letter.